

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended): An image forming apparatus, comprising:
an image reading block comprising image reading apparatus configured to read a manuscript image;
an image forming block comprising image forming apparatus located below the image reading block and configured to form an image on a recording sheet;
an operation block located at a front side of the image reading block and configured to operate the image forming apparatus[[,]] and the image reading apparatus; and
a sheet discharge section provided between the image reading block and the image forming block[[,]] and configured to receive a discharged recording sheet having the image formed by the image forming block[[,]];
wherein the image reading block is only supported by the rear end of the image forming block, and a front end portion of the operation block is located above the sheet discharge section and [[is]] arranged at a position shifted toward a rear end of the image forming block against a front end position of the image forming reading block.

2. (New): An image forming apparatus, comprising:
an image reading means for reading a manuscript image;
an image forming means located below the image reading means for forming an image on a recording sheet;
operation means located at a front side of the image reading block for operating the image forming means and the image reading means; and

a sheet discharge means provided between the image reading means and the image forming means for receiving a discharged recording sheet having the image formed by the image forming means;

wherein the image reading means is only supported by the rear end of the image forming means, and a front end portion of the operation means is located above the sheet discharge means and arranged at a position shifted toward a rear end of the image forming means against a front end position of the image reading means.